

Outdoor Report

The week of October 20th, 2014



South Dakota



Wildlife Division

"Serving People, Managing Wildlife"

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- **Regular Pheasant season dates run October 18th – January 4th.**
 - **Archery Antelope season dates run October 20th – 31st.**
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Brown County



Fishing Report:

Richmond Lake: Fishing has been slow. Some anglers are catching the occasional Bluegill. **Anglers are reminded that Walleye need to be 15 inches or longer to keep.**

Elm Lake: Anglers are catching Walleye, Crappie and Northern Pike. The bite has been inconsistent lately. **Anglers are reminded that Walleye need to be 15 inches or longer to keep.**

James River: Anglers have been catching Catfish and Bullheads. Some anglers are catching the occasional Walleye.

Elm River: Fishing has been slow lately.



Hunting Report:

Pheasants: Hunters were seeing good groups of birds throughout Brown County. Hunters still had to work to get their limit of birds. Most hunters had success in the later part of the evening.

Goose: Hunters have had decent success hunting geese. Hunters have had the best success hunting geese in wheat stubble. Scouting is the key to success. The best goose hunting has been on the eastern side of Brown County. It seems the birds are using harvested beans fields more regularly.

Dove: With the recent cold temperatures, the doves have migrated out of the area.

Duck: Hunters had good success this weekend hunting ducks. Most hunters hunted ducks in the small sloughs over decoys. Hunters were harvesting gadwall, redheads, pintails and mallards.

Swan: Swans have been showing up in large numbers in NE Brown County.

Deer: Bow Hunters have taken to the field more regularly with the colder temperatures and saw some success.

Clark County



Fishing Report:

Dry Lake #2: Fishing has really slowed down; very few fish are being caught.

Dry Lake #1: Little activity.

Swan Lake: Little activity.

Baileys Lake: Little activity.

Antelope Lake: Little activity.

Reid Lake: The lake is close through December 31st.

Dekkers Slough: Little activity.

Casey's Slough: Little activity.

Pepper Slough: Little activity.

Mankey's Slough: Little activity.

Carson's Slough: Little activity.

Indian Springs: Little activity.

Helgeson Slough: No activity.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl: A few areas of the county have some decent numbers of geese and ducks staged in them. A few ducks and geese are moving in from the north. A few swans have begun moving through the area. Hunters are reporting decent success.

Deer: Mornings and evenings seem to be the most active parts of the day. A few hunters have reported success.

Small Game: Hunters reported less than 1 bird per hunting on opening weekend. The season opens at 12:00 noon CST on October 18th – 24th and 10:00 am CST the rest of the season. The season closes at sunset each day.

Codington County



Fishing Report:

Lake Kampeska: Still a few anglers fishing the Lunkers inlet and having some success during the day on a variety of species of fish.

Pelican Lake: No activity.

Goose Lake: Shore fishermen have had good success off the Grover road in the evenings for Walleye and the occasional Perch.

Long Lake: No fishermen this week.

Dry Lake: Starting to see the boat traffic pick up again this week. Angler reports are pretty consistent with fishermen catching a few Walleye and Perch.

Grass Lake: No activity.

3rd Ave Pond: Still offering good opportunity to youngsters in and around town to catch a little Bluegill, Trout or Sunfish.

Stink: A few Walleye from shore are being caught.



Hunting Report:

Ducks: Water hunting has been tough this week, but field hunters are finding a few birds. Everyone is anxiously awaiting a new push of birds, especially a larger number of mallards.

Geese: Hunting pressure has been very minimal around the county. Opportunity is out there with bean fields coming out. I'm seeing quite a few new geese in the area, especially east of Henry and east of Long Lake.

Pheasants: Pheasant opener was slower than last year based on hunter activity. Overall, pheasant harvest was better. Still heard some poor reports from hunters, however; most hunters stated that they did better than last year.

Day County



Fishing Report:

Bitter: Fishing pressure has picked up with anglers reporting good success catching keeper Walleye. Anglers are still having some success catching a few Walleye from shore.

Waubay: Cooler temperatures have assisted anglers in catching some nice Walleye.

Reetz: Little pressure, with anglers catching a few Walleye and Crappie.

Lynn: Anglers are still having decent success catching some Walleye and Perch.

Enemy Swim: Fishing pressure has slowed.



Hunting Report:

Goose: There are huntable numbers of geese still in the area. Corn harvest is just getting started and bean harvest is almost completed, which will allow for more hunting opportunities.

Duck: There are still plenty of ducks in the area. A lot of gadwall and divers are starting to show up. There are still a lot of ducks to come down.

Pheasant: Pheasant hunters seemed to have a good weekend harvesting birds. Hunting for pheasants should improve as corn continues to come out.

Swan: Some swans are starting to show up in the area.

Deuel County



Fishing Report:

Lake Alice: Fishing has slowed down some in the last week. Anglers are still catching a few Northern Pike and Walleye from shore. The boat anglers are catching a handful of Perch. The best bite has still been at sunset and later.

Please do not block the road near the culvert. Park in the road ditch and walk to the lake so that the landowners can get vehicles in and out.

Bullhead Lake: No activity.

Round Lake: No activity.

Lake Oliver: A few anglers have been fishing from the pier and catching a few Perch and Bullhead.

School Lake: A few anglers have been shore fishing on the north side of the lake, catching some Northern Pike.

Fish Lake: No activity.

Lake Ketchum: Anglers continue to catch small Perch with the occasional keeper mixed in.

Lake Cochrane: No activity.

Clear Lake: Fishing has been slow. A few anglers have tried fishing from shore, and are mainly catching Northern Pike.



Hunting Report:

Canada goose: It appears that more geese have moved into the area this last week. The Clear Lake area has a large number of geese. There are also good numbers of geese in the northern half of the county, primarily the northwest corner.

Duck: Duck numbers are low around the county. The migration remains north of South Dakota, so until the weather gets colder in Canada and North Dakota, duck hunting will be slow. Hunting pressure has been low.

Pheasant: Finding birds remains difficult, but there are certainly more birds this year than last year.

Faulk County



Fishing Report:

Lake Faulkton: No fishing activity observed.



Hunting Report:

Canada goose: There are a few pockets of birds in the eastern and northern portions of the county. Scouting is key to finding the fields they are feeding in. They are mostly feeding in silage fields.

Duck: Most ducks are in northern and eastern Faulk County.

Pheasant: Hunters had decent success during opening weekend. Hunters who walked grass struggled in the afternoon, but those that walked corn pieces did well.

Grant County



Fishing Report:

Big Stone Lake: The Perch bite remains good. Most of the boats have been focused on the central portions of the lake. Shore fishermen have had some success catching a few Perch. Shore fishermen have found some success on the south end of the lake for Walleye, primarily in the evening hours.

Summit Lake: No reports of activity.

Hunter's Quarry: Fishing pressure has been low, but the opportunity to catch Trout still exists.



Hunting Report:

Canada goose: Canada goose numbers continue to be good throughout the county. Hunting pressure has been low. Scouting continues to be important.

Ducks: Duck numbers are low throughout the county. Hunters can still find a few ducks to hunt, but overall, most of the migration has yet to make its way into the state.

Pheasant: Hunters are going to have to work hard and walk a lot to find success. Success has been low so far this season.

Hamlin County



Fishing Report:

Lake Poinsett: No fishing activity.

Fedt Slough: A few shore fishermen this week. Reports range from small Perch to nicer Walleye.

Three Buck: No fishing activity.

Lake Norden: No fishing activity.

Lake Albert: No fishing activity.

Lake Mary/John: No fishing activity.



Hunting Report:

Ducks: Public land duck hunting has slowed down this week. This past week, duck hunters are transitioning to field hunting and having good success. Most of the hunters, scouts and ducks are concentrated in the Hazel area.

Geese: Goose numbers are picking up around the county. Hunter numbers have been slim. With bean and corn fields coming out, the opportunity to harvest geese is definitely there.

Pheasants: Not a bad start to the pheasant season. Most hunters had okay success, and stated it was better than last year. Hunters stated the abundance of corn in the field has hurt their chance of see many birds.

Marshall County



Fishing Report:

White Lake: Little to no activity.

Piyas Lake: Walleye and Perch fishing remain decent. Anglers are catching fish in the mornings and evenings.

Opitz Lake: Great Walleye fishing in the morning and evenings. **Reminder: 15 inch minimum on Walleye.**

South Buffalo: Anglers are still catching good numbers of Bluegill, Crappie and the occasional Northern.

Stink Lake: Slow.

Cattail Grade: Slow.

Roy Lake: The Smallmouth Bass and Largemouth Bass bite is decent, but overall, slow.

Clear Lake: Good Smallmouth Bass bite, but fishing for other species has slowed down. **Reminder: If you catch a tagged Smallmouth Bass – do not remove the tag; call the number listed on the tag to assist in the current study being conducted on this lake.**



Hunting Report:

Duck: The northern tier of the county seems to be holding the highest numbers of ducks.

Goose: Canada Geese are located all over the county. Scouting is key. Those who are scouting and getting permission for fields are generally doing well. There seems to be plenty of fields out there with huntable numbers of geese.

Deer: As the corn harvest continues, the deer will become more visible.

Pheasant: As the corn harvest continues, the pheasant hunting should get better. Hunters over the weekend harvested around 1.5 birds per hunter. Be sure to obtain permission before entering private land.

McPherson & Edmunds Counties



Fishing Report:

Scatterwood Lake: Very little fishing activity.

Long Lake: No activity.

Eureka Lake: No activity.

Mina Lake: Very little fishing activity.

Anderson Slough: No activity.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Success was not very good. Hunters averaged about 1.5 birds per person this weekend. Hunters found birds in standing corn and in slough areas. Hunters reported seeing minimal birds. Hunter numbers were down. Corn is just starting to be combined, so hunters should find better success soon.

Goose: McPherson County is not holding very many geese. Most geese in this area can be found from Roscoe to Bowdle and up to the Hosmer area. There is very little hunting pressure

Dove: Most have migrated south due to the colder temperatures.

Grouse: Grouse numbers are low. McPherson County is the best place to try.

Duck: Good numbers of ducks in both counties. The Ipswich to Bowdle area and south of HWY 12 is holding the largest concentration of ducks. Some good pockets of ducks can be found in both counties. For the most part, ducks are using bean fields.

Swan: Good numbers of swans in McPherson County. A few small pockets of swans can be found in Edmunds County.

Sandhill Crane: A few cranes started to show up in McPherson County. The central parts of both counties are seeing the highest number of cranes.

Roberts County



Fishing Report:

Lake Traverse: Walleye action has slowed down in the lake and in the Mystinka River.

Dry Wood Lake: Walleye fishing is picking up and the Northern Pike bite is good.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Numbers are good throughout the county. As more corn gets harvested, the geese should start patterning. Scouting is the key to success.

Duck: Good numbers of ducks in the county. Most hunters had decent luck hunting water due to warm water temperatures. Some field hunters did find some birds, but it was slow.

Grouse: Grouse numbers are low, but a few can be found on the coteau.

Pheasant: Hunters had difficulty finding birds, mostly due to all the corn being in the fields yet. Best success came in hunting CRP, sloughs or grass, towards evening.

Spink County



Fishing Report:

Twin Lake: Fishing activity is slow.

Mud Lake: No fishing activity observed.

Cottonwood Lake: Anglers are catching good numbers of Walleyes towards dark.

Redfield Lake: No fishing activity observed.

Turtle Creek: No fishing activity observed.

James River: Anglers are catching some Walleyes. The river level is low.



Hunting Report:

Goose: There is beginning to be more new geese in the area.

Duck: The local ducks have grouped up in some larger groups. There are a few new ducks in the area as well. Ducks are grouping up and feeding in silage or bean fields.

Pheasant: Hunters had decent luck on opening weekend. There is still a lot of unharvested corn, which is holding a lot of birds. Hunters that walked corn strips did well.